ARTICLES

OF

ERECTION

OF THE

GLASGOW MARINE SOCIETY,

FOR THE

USES and PURPOSES after-mentioned, ſubſcribed of the ſeveral Dates after-written. Begun May 2d, 1758.

WHEREAS the Wealth, Strength and Proſperity of Great Britain in general, and of the City of Glaſgow in particular, depend upon Trade and Commerce, with which the Shipping and Navigation, that give Life and Vigour to the whole, are inſeparably connected; and whereas Arts and Manufactures are encouraged, maintained and promoted, the Poor are employed, the Conſumption of the Neceſſaries of Life, and Proviſions of all Kinds, is encreaſed by the Trade, Commerce and Navigation of the City of Glaſgow, whereby the Landed and Commercial Intereſt of this Part of the Iſland are greatly intereſted in the Continuance and Enlargement thereof: And whereas the Stability of his Majeſty's Government, and the Security of the Liberties and Properties of this Iſland, depends

in a great Meaſure on the Increaſe of Sailors and Mariners, and giving proper Encouragement to Perſons to engage themſelves in that Buſineſs: Therefore it is a Matter no leſs worthy of the Charity than of the Gratitude and Juſtice of every Perſon ſo intereſted, to reſcue from Miſery and Want, ſuch Seamen as ſhall become old, decayed, lame, or maimed in the Service of the Merchants of Glaſgow, and who ſhall have behaved themſelves, while there employed, with Fidelity and Diligence, and to make ſome Proviſion for their poor Widows and Children, which may have the happy Effect to excite able Hands to enter into the ſaid Service, as well as to encourage their good Behaviour. And conſidering that the Funds of that Society in Glaſgow, known by the Name of THE SEAMENS CLUB, being very ſmall, ariſing only from Part of their own Wages, are nowiſe ſufficient for anſwering the Purpoſes above-mentioned. For theſe Reaſons, We ARCHIBALD INGRAM, Dean of Guild of Glaſgow, and the Magiſtrates of the ſaid City, with the Gentlemen, Merchants, Mariners, Manufacturers, and others ſubſcribing, do hereby join ourſelves, and all others who ſhall be pleaſed to concur with us in ſo laudable a Deſign, into a voluntary charitable Society, by the Name of THE GLASGOW MARINE SOCIETY, for the Ends above-mentioned: And for raiſing the neceſſary Funds for this Charity, and for the good Government of this Society, we have agreed upon and do eſtabliſh the following Articles and Regulations.

I.

THE Management and Direction of the Funds after-mentioned of this Society ſhall be veſted in the Dean of Guild of Glaſgow for the Time, and twelve Directors to be choſen out of the Subſcribers, with a Perſon to be called a Commodore, and

a Collector, who are to have the Charge and Overſight of the Funds belonging to the Society, and the Diſtribution thereof, during the Time of their being in Office, ſubject always as to the Manner of Election, and as to the Powers hereby veſted in them, to the Qualifications and Rules herein after ſet down, and accountable to the Society as is after-mentioned; and the Commodore and Collector may either be part of the aforeſaid twelve Directors, or not, as ſhall be found convenient.

II.

THAT how ſoon a competent Number of Subſcribers is obtained to this Agreement, the Dean of Guild ſhall name ſix of the Subſcribers, and the Society, called THE SEAMENS CLUB, ſhall nominate other ſix to be Directors, for the Purpoſes aforeſaid, who are to continue in Office until the third Tueſday of January next, and the Dean of Guild, and theſe twelve Directors, ſhall elect one of the Subſcribers by Name of Commodore, and another to be Collector, alſo ſhall chuſe a Clerk to the Society, who are to continue in their Offices during the Time foreſaid, the Commodore always to be a reſiding Merchant in Glaſgow, who has formerly been Maſter of a Ship.

III.

THERE ſhall be a General Meeting of all the Members of the Society upon the third Tueſday of January One thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-nine, and yearly thereafter on that Day, within the Merchants Hall of Glaſgow, at

whereof previous Notice ſhall be given in the Glaſgow News-Papers fourteen Days before the time of Meeting. That at the ſaid General Meetings, the Members preſent ſhall have laid before them a State of the Society's

Subjects and Affairs, and of the Receipts, Deburſements, and Diſpoſal of their Funds; and ſhall, by Plurality of Voices, out of the Members chuſe twelve Directors for the then enſuing Year, whereof one Third ſhall be taken out of ſuch as are reſiding Merchants in Glaſgow, who have been Ship-Maſters, if ſo many can be got, and the other two Thirds are to be taken out of the other Members of the Society. That nine of the former Directors ſhall continue for every enſuing Year after any General Meeting, and three ſhall be diſqualified and fall off yearly. That, for the firſt three Years, the Directors to be diſqualified, and to go out of the Management, ſhall be named by the General Meeting, and they ſhall chuſe others in their Room; but at all ſubſequent Elections, the three Directors eldeſt in Office ſhall go out, and fall from their Office, and other three ſhall be choſen in their Place, with the Limitation before-mentioned. That the Dean of Guild and Directors ſhall chuſe a Commodore, who has been Maſter of a Ship as aforeſaid, and a Collector, who ſhall be conjoined with them in the Management of the Funds and Affairs of the Society for the Year enſuing after ſuch Election, and none of the Perſons diſqualified as aforeſaid ſhall be re-elected into the Office of Director during the Space of two Years after his being ſuperſeded from that Office; and the Dean of Guild, Directors, Commodore, and Collector, ſhall, by Plurality of Voices, nominate a Clerk to the Society for the Year after ſaid Election.

IV.

THE Managers ſhall meet quarterly, viz. on the firſt Thurſdays of April, July, October and January, always, and the Penſioners upon this Society ſhall be admitted at theſe quarterly Meetings, by Majority of Voices of the Managers preſent, and

at no other Time; but, in caſes of Emergency, they ſhall have Power to give preſent Relief to Stranger Seamen, or Seamen belonging to Glaſgow, Ship-wrecked or in Diſtreſs. The major Part of the Managers for the time ſhall be a Quorum. And in all Meetings, general or quarterly, the Dean of Guild ſhall preſide, and he ſhall have Power to call extraordinary Meetings as he may ſee proper. In his Abſence the Commodore ſhall preſide; and if both be abſent, the Managers or Members preſent to elect their own Preſes. All Penſioners ſhall be called over by Name at every annual General Meeting, and ſhall either be continued or ſtruck off the Liſt, as the Society ſhall then think fit from their different Circumſtances and Wants.

V.

SUCH Seamen only (or their Widows and Children) ſhall be intitled to the Charity of this Society, who ſhall have ſerved at leaſt ſeven Years in Ships or Veſſels belonging wholly or moſtly to the Merchants of Glaſgow, excepting in caſes of extraordinary Merit, ſuch as being wounded or maimed in Defence or Preſervation of their Ship, in which caſes they may be admitted for a ſhorter Service.

VI.

ALL Seamen (with their Widows and Children) ſhall be excluded and debarred from receiving any of the Charity of this Society, who ſhall at any time run away from their Service before compleating their Engagements, or engage with or take Money from different Maſters at the ſame time, or ſhall be guilty of diſhoneſt or mutinous Practices, or otherwiſe refuſe, neglect or act contrary to their Duty, all or any of which Malverſations, when happening, ſhall by the Maſter of the Veſſel

be faithfully reported to the Preſes or ſome of the Managers of this Society, who are to cauſe the ſame to be properly recorded in a Book to be kept for that Purpoſe.

VII.

THAT the former Society, called THE SEAMENS CLUB, ſhall be incorporated with this new erected Marine Society in all time coming; and the Funds of the ſaid Seamens Club ſhall pertain and belong to this new Society, and ſhall be under the Management of the Dean of Guild, Directors, and other Perſons aforeſaid. Alſo all Poors Rates, which have been in uſe to be paid to the ſaid Seamens Club, ſhall be paid into this new Society. And the Subſcribers, reſpectively, oblige themſelves, that their Maſters and Mariners ſhall duly pay to the Collector of this Society, for the time, the aforeſaid Poors Rates, being Two Pence on every Twenty Shillings Sterling of Wages, each Voyage, for all Ships and Veſſels ſailing from or to the River of Clyde wherein they are concerned, in proportion to their Intereſt therein; declaring always, That when ſuch Ships or Veſſels belong partly to the Subſcribers, or any of them, and partly to the Inhabitants of another Place, where a Fund is eſtabliſhed for Relief of their Sailors, that a proportional Part of ſaid Poors Rates, correſponding to the Share belonging to the Subſcribers, or any of them, ſhall be paid to the Collector aforeſaid, for the Uſe of this Society.

VIII.

THAT every Member, at his Admiſſion to this Society, and ſubſcribing theſe Articles, ſhall pay to the Collector a Sum not under one Guinea, for the Uſe of the Poor of this Marine Society (wherein is to be allowed whatever Sum any Member

of the ſaid Seamens Club has already paid for the Uſe thereof, as Entry Money); declaring always, That no Perſon ſhall have a Vote at any General Meeting, or be capable of being elected a Director, Commodore, or Collector, who ſhall not pay and contribute two Guineas for the Uſe of this Marine Society (allowing as aforeſaid); and that every Perſon paying or contributing four Guineas to the Funds of this new Society, ſhall have two Votes; and ſo in Proportion for every two Guineas which he ſhall pay or contribute as aforeſaid.

IX.

THAT regular and diſtinct Books ſhall be kept of the Affairs of this Society, with reſpect to their Proceedings at General Meetings, and the Management of their Directors; that the Minutes of the Managers Procedure ſhall be read over yearly at the General Meetings; that a diſtinct Account ſhall be kept of the Society's Funds, and of the Receipts and Diſburſements, by the Collector for the Time, and of the Diſpoſal of the Society's Stock or Revenue; and that the Collector ſhall balance his Books yearly on the firſt of January, and lay his Books before the Dean of Guild and Managers, or their Quorum, to be audited and docqueted by them, and thereafter to be exhibited at the annual Meeting to be held the third Tueſday of January, in manner before preſcribed; that the Society's Money ſhall be lent out by Order of the Dean of Guild, Commodore and Directors foreſaid, or their Quorum, at a Meeting to be called for that Purpoſe; and all Bonds, Deeds, and Writings wherein the Society are, or ſhall be concerned, ſhall be made and taken in the Name of the Dean of Guild of Glaſgow, Commodore and Collector of this new Marine Society for the Time, or their Succeſſors in Office, for the Behoof of the Poor of ſaid Society.

X.

THAT the Society, at any general annual Meeting aforeſaid, ſhall have Power to alter, amend, or explain the Articles and Regulations before-written, and to make what new Regulations they may judge proper; with this Proviſion, That they ſhall not have Power to alter the Set and Conſtitution of the Society, with reſpect to their Qualifications, and Direction and Government, without Conſent of three Fourths of the Members in Life at the Time.

A LETTER

A LETTER TO Mr. ARCHIBALD INGRAM,

PRESENT DEAN OF GUILD OF GLASGOW,

AND TO THE OTHER

GENTLEMEN DIRECTORS OR PROMOTERS

OF THE

GLASGOW CHARITABLE MARINE SOCIETY.

GENTLEMEN,

I Have read with pleaſure the plan and regulations of the Glaſgow Marine Society. A deſign ſo uſeful cannot fail to meet with general approbation. Few could have been thought of which merit a more univerſal encouragement.

The aged, the maimed, the widow, and the fatherleſs are recommended by Nature and Chriſtianity as the proper objects of charity. We are peculiarly bound to do good to thoſe with whom we are immediately connected, the reality of whoſe wants we can moſt certainly know, and whoſe fidelity in a life ſpent in fatigue and danger can be ſo clearly aſcertain'd. Who can have a better claim to relief from their countrymen and fellow citizens, than thoſe who by their honeſty, courage and labours have contributed to enrich others, when they themſelves are at laſt beſet with old age and poverty? Every generous and public ſpi-

rited merchant will count it his honour to promote ſuch a deſign and give with a liberal hand. May not he who doth ſo, with humility hope that having deviſed liberal things, by liberal things he ſhall ſtand; and the bread which he hath caſt upon the waters, ſhall he not find it after many days? What ſtronger principle has God implanted in human nature than gratitude? What virtue wears more of the divine image than mercy?

Many well intended charities become occaſionally an encouragement to ſloth, and the vices which attend it. The inſtitution of this Society provides only for the deſerving ſailor, when reduced to want, or the widows and children of ſuch.

The brave ſeaman, who is called to expoſe himſelf to danger in time of war, will be much more animated, when he knows that they whoſe property he defends, will not only pay him his juſt wages, but alſo have made proviſion for his wife and children if he falls, and for himſelf if he is diſabled from further ſervice.

In proportion as foreign trade increaſes, it muſt require a greater number of hands to navigate the ſhips, and this again muſt depend upon the encouragement given to that way of life: without foreign trade the greateſt part of manufactures muſt ſoon languiſh and decay; it is this which enriches the country by exporting the ſuperplus of induſtry, that cannot be conſumed at home. It is the number of hands employed in manufactures

which is the cauſe of the demand for all ſorts of vivers, and thereby increaſeth the value of lands and encourageth agriculture. And hence it follows, that tho' ſailors are more immediately connected with the foreign traders, yet the landed gentleman and manufacturer are alſo deeply intereſted in the ſucceſs of navigation, and in the ſupport of that uſeful ſet of people by whom the ſame is carried on; which being the caſe, is it not to be expected that every manufacturer, of a liberal turn of mind, will contribute according to his ability, to aſſiſt in an enterpriſe ſo much calculated to advance the general intereſt?

The noblemen and gentlemen who take pleaſure in the good of their country, cannot fail to give marks of their approbation and favour, by promoting a deſign ſo conducive to the public welfare. Since a proper encouragement of ſailors is ſo neceſſary for the advancement of foreign trade, ſince foreign trade contributes ſo much to the increaſe of our home manufactures, and to the number of hands employed therein, and ſince the increaſe of theſe laſt occaſions a proportionable demand for whatever agriculture can produce; therefore all degrees and ranks of people, whether landed gentleman or farmer, foreign or inland trader, manufacturer, artificer, or common labourer, are deeply intereſted in the welfare of the honeſt and induſtrious ſailor.

Since the ſtrength of the navy is the great bulwark of Britiſh

liberty and independency, every ſcheme calculated to raiſe a nurſery of ſeamen muſt neceſſarily add to the ſtrength of this bulwark. The great number of ſailors, with which the ſhipping of Glaſgow has ſupplied the navy during the preſent war, ſhews the uſefulneſs of your deſign in this point of light, which, if advanced in the extenſive way it deſerves, might enable this place to do ſtill greater ſervice on the like occaſions to the public, or at leaſt the like ſervice with leſs prejudice to private trade.

If diligence in trade, manufactures, and agriculture, all of them as yet in their infancy, have contributed ſo much in a few years not only to the good of the city of Glaſgow, and to improve ſo many parts of the country around it, but alſo to awaken a general emulation and induſtry more or leſs in almoſt every part of Scotland; a deſign that may advance this emulation ſtill further, ought to be conſidered as of general uſe, by every gentleman who has reflection enough to ſee the connection between the parts and the whole.——And independent of all other conſiderations, the cauſe of HUMANITY ought to be the cauſe of mankind.

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

GLASGOW,
May 17th. 1758.

with great reſpect and eſteem &c.